

Supplemental Preliminary Amendment
Application No.: 10/786,469
July 19, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same numbers, respectively:

Please cancel claims 1-18 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Claims 1-18 (Canceled)

Please add the following new claims 19-36 as follows:

Claim 19 (New): A method of determining a value of a skin characteristic, especially of a type of skin, for the application of permanent make-up or tattooing to the skin, the method comprising the following steps:

generating light rays by means of a light source;

irradiating a test sector of a skin, to which tattooing or permanent make-up is to be applied by means of color, with the light rays;

measuring test light rays formed in the test sector by irradiation with the light rays, by a detector means to generate measured electrical test light values of the test light rays;

processing the measured electrical values by an electronic processing means to determine a characteristic value which is a measure of a characteristic of the skin in the test sector and which is to be taken into account when applying permanent make-up or tattooing to the skin; and

outputting the characteristic value via an output means.

Claim 20 (New): The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein monochrome light rays of the red, green, and/or blue spectral regions are used as the light rays.

Claim 21 (New): The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein white light rays are used as the light rays.

Claim 22 (New): The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein a skin type value indicating a type of the skin in the test sector is determined and output as the characteristic value.

Claim 23 (New): The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein a color value indicating color suitable for the skin for

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application of permanent make-up or tattooing to the skin is determined and output as the characteristic value.

Claim 24 (New): The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein a chromaticity correction value for a corrective color indicated by the chromaticity correction value is determined as chromaticity value and output via the output means during the automatic processing of the measured test light values by the electronic processing means.

Claim 25 (New): The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein a corrective color volume statement for a volume amount of corrective color per volume amount of color is determined together with the chromaticity correction value and output via the output means.

Claim 26 (New): The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein electronic data including information on further characteristics of the skin in the test sector, especially a pH, are processed when determining the chromaticity value/chromaticity correction value by the electronic processing means.

Claim 27 (New): The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein a test value determined from the measuring light rays and characterizing blue-coloring pigmentation of the skin in the test sector is taken into account when determining the chromaticity value/chromaticity correction value.

Claim 28 (New): The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein another test value determined from the measuring light rays and characterizing a property which colors the skin in the test sector orange is taken into account when determining the chromaticity value/chromaticity correction value.

Claim 29 (New): The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the chromaticity value/chromaticity correction value in the form of electronic chromaticity value data is used as input value for an electronic imaging system with which at least a partial representation of a living test creature for which the test sector of the skin was examined is generated automatically on an electronic display, taking into account the chromaticity value/chromaticity correction value.

Claim 30 (New): An apparatus for determining a characteristic value of a skin, especially of a type of skin, for

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the application of permanent make-up or tattooing to the skin,
comprising:

a light source for generating light rays;

a detector means for detecting test light rays which are
formed by irradiation of a test sector of the skin with the light
rays so as to generate respective measured electrical test light
values of the test light rays in a plurality of optical spectral
regions;

an electronic processing means for automatic processing of
the measured test light values to determine a characteristic
value which is a measure of a characteristic of the skin in the
test sector and which is to be taken into account when applying
permanent make-up or tattooing to the skin; and

an output means for outputting the characteristic value.

Claim 31 (New): The apparatus as claimed in claim 30,
wherein the electronic processing means is configured to
determine, as the characteristic value, a skin type value
indicating a type of the skin.

Claim 32 (New): The apparatus as claimed in claim 30,
wherein the electronic processing means is configured to
determine, as the characteristic value, a chromaticity value

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indicating color for application of permanent make-up or tattooing to the skin.

Claim 33 (New): The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein the light source comprises a plurality of light emitting diodes for generating monochromatic light rays in the plurality of optical spectral regions.

Claim 34 (New): The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein the processing means is coupled to an arrangement for automatic color analysis for application of tattooing or permanent make-up to the skin in order to transfer the characteristic value to the assembly for automatic processing.

Claim 35 (New): The apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein the arrangement comprises a screen means for presenting electronic image data and a control means for processing the electronic image data in consideration of the characteristic value and for automatically adapting the characteristic value.

Claim 36 (New): The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein a dispersion component for spectral dispersion of the measuring light rays is connected upstream of the detector means.